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July 1, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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STB
MANAGEMENT

Subject: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am reaching out to you as a Chicago area resident in support of CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E line. CN has proposed a plan which includes purchasing an additional rail line so that they can redirect many of their freight trains and reduce the problematic train congestion experienced in the Chicago area. Freight rail is an important component of Chicago's economy, so it is vital that the railway congestion is addressed.

The large number of trains in this city causes significant inconveniences for area residents. In my daily commutes, I am delayed at crossings about twice a week. These interruptions to my commute can be frustrating. Additionally, it can take around 24 hours for a freight train to pass through the city of Chicago alone, most of this time is spent idling, adding unnecessary pollutants into our atmosphere.

It is clear that there are too many trains using rail lines that cannot handle the current volume. This causes the aforementioned delays and excess pollution in our air. If CN is able to reroute many of their freight trains to this underused portion of EJ&E, the railway congestion and resulting problems will soon diminish. Please ensure this comes to pass by giving your approval to CN's proposal.

Sincerely,

Henry O'Brien

